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In Our Time: Indian Camp

We are all given different outtakes on how we view life, whether it is in a positive or negative way. People are different in their own way, and each person has a specific way that they deal with unwanted events throughout life. Within the novel *In Our Time,* Hemingway writes a short story about a father, who is a doctor, and a son, who is shadowing his father’s performance. In the story, we notice that the son is very inquisitive and questions a lot of things pertaining to life, and how people go through it. There is no definite answer as with opinionated questions because life experiences are different for each person, not everyone shares the same feelings towards things, and we all have different techniques used to handle them.

To begin with, life can take a person anywhere. Anyone can live their life anyway they want. Because we have unlimited options on who we are and what we want to be, there are millions of different obstacles to overcome, and places to go that there is no telling where a person will end up five years from now. Nick is constantly asking his father questions like :Do many men kill themselves?” and “Does giving birth always hurt for everyone?” Nick’s father replies with not always, because some people have a harder time than others giving birth, and not all men kill themselves. Also, not every female on this planet has shared the experience of giving birth, therefore we cannot undergo the assumption that every woman’s experience giving birth went the same.

Secondly, everyone in this world has mixed emotions and different feelings about different subjects. For example, lets say one of your friend’s kitten runs away from home. Your friend is going to feel a lot more sorrow for the loss of their kitten than you are because they were more emotionally attached to it. Feelings are nearly indescribable emotions that people face on a day-to-day basis. When we feel the need to help or comfort others, such as Nick did when he asked his father if there was anything he could do to stop the pain for the Indian woman giving birth, it shows that human beings are capable of having sympathy for others. We can take note that Nick has sympathy for those around him, and cares about other people’s feelings instead of just himself.

Lastly, handling our everyday situations in life varies with our options and outlook on life. In the story, we saw that the father Indian killed himself because he did not want to deal with the stress and burden of having a newborn child in the family. Most people would say that killing yourself is not the easy way out of life, and that there is more to live for, but others will argue with you that it seems like the better option. Some people handle stress better than others. In example, I am taking quite a few difficult classes here at UF, and I do not handle the stress very well when exam time rolls around. My roommate, on the other hand, is very calm and collected, and breezes through them like it is no problem at all for her. Because each person has been through different situations throughout their lifetime, there is no definite way to approach certain issues.

In conclusion, Hemmingway presents us with a short story that gives a brief look on Nick Adam’s thoughts throughout his father’s medical procedure. We can tell that Nick is young and naïve and does not really understand all of what is going on around him yet. Through Nick’s curious character, we see how all people live their lives differently, and that no two people are the same. No two people share the same life experiences, have the same feelings, and deal with situations all the same. There is always multiple options and answers for each individual in this world.